

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please substitute the new Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page for the original Abstract presently in the application.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus for cooling a fuel cell system. The system includes a fuel cell (1) having a cooling device (15) which forms part of a cooling circuit including a liquid coolant. The cooling circuit, outside the fuel cell (1), contains a device by which any gases which may penetrate into the liquid coolant from the fuel cell (1) are separated out and fed to the mass flow of the oxygen-containing gas which is fed into the fuel cell.